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DEMOCRATIC
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ADOLF NUMBER 2
Hitler's Ops Chief Back

A man called Adolf took over the supreme command of the German Wehrmacht on March 1st, the second Adolf to occupy this position in recent years. Full name of Adolf No. 2 is General Adolf Heusinger, former Chief of Operations in the nazi Wehrmacht. Adolf No. 1 was Fuehrer Adolf Hitler, deceased.

On August 2nd 1945 Britain, the Soviet Union and the USA decreed at the Potsdam Conference that "all German land, naval and air forces ... including the General Staff ... shall be completely and finally abolished." Less than twelve years later, one of the most prominent members of the nazi General Staff, General Adolf Heusinger was installed in his new post as chief of all West German land, naval and air forces.

Here are some details of Heusinger's military career, a biography paralleling that of most of the leading officers of the new West German armed forces.

In the First World War he served as Lieutenant on the western front, winning two Iron Crosses before becoming a POW in British hands. Returning to Germany in December 1919 he immediately rejoined the Reichswehr, and from that date up to the present he has remained a professional officer, slowly climbing the ranks of promotion to his present command.

In his autobiography "Befehl im Widerstreit", published in West Germany in 1950, Heusinger states that he did not participate in Hitler's first Putsch in Munich in 1923. He explains his non-participation by stating that although he agreed with the aims of the Putsch, he did not believe it would be successful.

Adolf Hitler used to bite carpets: Adolf Heusinger only bites nails

When Hitler was successful in coming to power in 1933, Heusinger, by that time a key officer in the operations department of the General Staff, found no difficulty in serving a man who had, in the meantime, shown that he could be successful.

As a hard-working staff officer he earned rapid promotion, and by 1940 he had reached the position of Chief of Operations on the nazi General Staff, and was thus responsible for the military planning of most of the German invasions of the following years.

In the following years Hitler sacked almost all leading General Staff members for one reason or another, but he found Heusinger so reliable that he kept him at his post until July 20th 1944, when Heusinger, who was sitting next

(cont. on next page)

to Hitler at the General Staff table, was slightly wounded in the abortive bomb plot against Hitler's life. In the panic following the bomb attack he was arrested, but he was released "without a stain on his character" two months later, after convincing the Gestapo that he had known nothing of the plot.

In his 1950 autobiography Heusinger makes it plain that he had, in fact, had no hand in the plot. After his release he was attached to the "Fuehrer Reserve", and served on the western front, where he was captured by the Americans.

In his autobiography Heusinger does not spare with criticism of Hitler: but his criticism is directed only against strategical mistakes made by the supreme war lord, and has not a single word to say against the waging of aggressive war as such, or against the methods used by the nazi forces. He criticised Hitler sharply, for instance, for failing to destroy the British Army at Dunkirk in 1940. The only mention in his autobiography of the nazi treatment of the conquered peoples is the passing remark that the repressive measures were foolish, since they alienated people who under other circumstances might have been won over to support of the nazi cause.

After the war Heusinger was held by the Americans for three years, and during this period he gave a fuller statement of his views on this subject. His affidavit was produced by the American prosecution at the Nuremberg trial of major war criminals in May 1946, as Exhibit US-564. In this affidavit General Heusinger made no attempt to deny that he had had full knowledge of the nazi campaign to murder all Slavs and Jews, but claimed that he had opposed the programme on tactical grounds. Here are the relevant portions of this affidavit:

"It was always my personal opinion that the treatment of the civilian population in the area of operations and the methods of fighting the bands (partisans, ed.) gave the political and military leadership a welcome opportunity to carry out their aim of systematically reducing the Slavs and the Jews. I always regarded these cruel measures as a military foolishness, since they unnecessarily hampered the fight of our troops against the enemy."

At the same trial one of his colleagues, General Horst Freiherr von Buttlar-Brandenfels commented on Heusingers's evidence in these words:

"I worked very closely together with General Heusinger, and very often spoke with him on the subject of war against the bandits. He never spoke to me in such terms on the subject, and I can find no explanation for this statement of his, since it is in complete contradiction to the basic views of the military leadership." (Official Nuremberg Trial Report, German Edition, Vol XV, page 621).

Another witness stated that Heusinger had been one of those who helped in fighting the "bandits" by supplying Wehrmacht troops for the purpose. The witness was SS General Ernst Rode, Himmler's chief of staff. He told the International Tribunal:

"My task was to allocate the necessary forces to the high SS and police officers engaged in fighting the bandits, and to ensure that they had sufficient support from Wehrmacht forces. This task entailed direct conversations with the leading officers of the Wehrmacht leadership staff, that is to say with General Warlimont, von Buttlar, Guderian, Zeitzler, Heusinger and Wenk . . . "

After his release from an American prison camp in 1948, Heusinger immediately got a job with the American financed espionage service of General Gehlen, former nazi spy chief. The West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" quoted Heusinger on February 29th 1956 as saying: "Herr Gehlen came to see me in spring 1948, and suggested that it would be useful if I could keep up to date on the development of the military situation in the East. And that is exactly what I did. My activity had nothing to do with activity as a secret agent."

The West German newsmagazine continues: "It is quite true that Gehlen had engaged the former chief of operations for another purpose than for his espionage service. The West German spy boss did not at that time think of confining himself to collecting and sifting information. Two years before Adenauer offered West German soldiers to the allies, Gehlen was already engaged in assembling a new Supreme Army Command."

But internal intrigues amongst the West German militarists brought Gehlen's personal plans to naught, and when Heusinger discovered that General Gehlen's activities were being confined to the espionage field he promptly deserted him, and in January 1951 he went to work for the embryonic West German War Ministry.

Here too, for the past six years, he has been involved in an intensive intra-mural fight for rank and position. He won the fight, and today Hitler's Operations Chief is the boss of all West German armed forces.

"UNSULLIED"

"Our soldiers have done magnificent deeds. I hope that will be recognised at a later date. They have fought to the last, and kept their honour unsullied."

General Adolf Heusinger, "Befehl im Widerstreit", Rainer Wunderlich Verlag, 1950 (page 379).

THE HARICH CASE

Hard Labour for Three Accused

Three East German social scientists were sentenced to terms of hard labour on March 9th, after the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic had found them guilty of "Forming a conspirative group with the aim of changing conditions in the German Democratic Republic by threats or force".

The three accused were Wolfgang Harich, fomerly Professor of Social Sciences at East Berlin university, and later editor of the philosophical magazine "Zeitschrift für Philosophie"; Bernhard Steinberger, member of the staff of the Institute of Economic Sciences, who was recently rehabilitated after six years in Soviet detention on "espionage" charges; and Manfred Hertwig, member of the staff of the philosophical magazine. All accused were members of the Socialist Unity Party.

The court found all three guilty of offences against Article 6 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic. This article makes it a crime to conduct "boycott campaigns against democratic installations and organisations ..."

Harich was sentenced to 10 years hard labour, Steinberger to four years hard labour, and Hertwig to two years hard labour. All the accused were represented in court by lawyers of their own choice who were able to confer with their clients some days before the trial opened.

A number of witnesses for prosecution and defence were examined by the court. Three of the witnesses, the editors Gustav Just and Heinz Zoeger, and the radio commentator Richard Wolf, were arrested in court after giving evidence, under "urgent suspicion of participation in the conspiracy inimical to the state."

GERMAN REPORT is unable to present a first-hand report of the trial since no facilities were extended for foreign journalists to attend the trial. The nearest relatives of the accused were not able to attend the trial.

The following report of the main points of the indictment, and some details of the progress of the trial itself are condensed from reports published in the East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland".

The indictment stated in part:

"The accused jointly took planned steps to undermine and overthrow the constitutional state and social order of the German Democratic Republic, in that they used conspirative methods to form a group inimical to the state, and the accused Harich cooperated with the 'East Bureau of the (West German) Social Democratic Party'.

"Pursuing their counter-revolutionary goals they aimed at weakening and liquidating the state power of the German Democratic Republic, abolishing important socialist achievements in the politicial, economic and cultural fields, and organising the revival of reactionary forces so as to destroy the people's democratic basis of workers' and peasants' power ...

"The accused Harich was in criminal contact with the 'East Bureau of the SPD', an espionage organisation maintained by the imperialist secret services. Harich himself took the initiative in establishing contact with the East Bureau. He had thereby the aim of winning for himself influential allies in West Germany ..."

(The indictment further charged that Harich, at the beginning of November 1956, awaited a popular rising in the German Democratic Republic, and that he intended to "place himself at the head" of such a rising.)

"In forming his counter-revolutionary opinions Harich was strongly influenced by the ideas of representatives of the reactionary wing of the Petofi Circle in Hungary, with which he had contacts, and by the ideas of various intellectuals in Poland, who confirmed his counter-revolutionary ideas.

"From the middle of November 1956 Harich worked on a written version of his conception. His memorandum is submitted as evidence to the court. Harich's memorandum calls for the liquidation of the state power in the German Democratic Republic by means of the overthrow of the Government, the ending of the leading role played by the Socialist Unity Party, the abolition of the National People's Army, the dissolution of the Ministry for State Security and other parts of the state apparatus, and Democratic Germany's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact. Socialist construction should not be pushed ahead, small nationally-owned factories should be sold to capitalists, West German capitalists should be given licences in the German Democratic Republic, and the Machine Tractor Stations and State Farms should be dissolved ...

"Harich and his group discussed methods of putting the counter-revolutionary aims into effect. The methods correspond to the criminal aims of the accused. First, the counter-revolutionary demands should be defined in writing: the accused intended to bring this written memorandum to the attention of a wide circle of people. For this purpose the memorandum should be sent to the members of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, to all district and local committees of the Socialist Unity Party, and should be submitted for publication to the periodical 'Einheit' (theoretical journal of the Socialist Unity Party, ed.). In addition the relevant circles should be urged to call a conference of theoreticians for the discussion of questions of the day, at which Harich could present his memorandum and argue in its favour ...

"In order to obtain support from the West Harich intended to write a series of articles for West German newspapers, and negotiations with West German newspapers had already taken place. It was also decided to make contacts with members of other institutions in order to form similar groups there."

(The indictment then stated that if these steps did not put enough pressure upon the government of the German Democratic Republic and the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party, then the accused intended to threaten that within eight days the programme would be broadcast by West Berlin radio stations, which would also urge measures intended to disturb the state order of the German Democratic Republic.)

"It was also planned to move to West Germany, where an organisation in opposition to the Socialist

Unity Party and the Communist Party of Germany should be formed, and to issue there a newspaper which should become the organ of struggle against the state order in the German Democratic Republic . . .

"The group evaluated the developments in People's Poland in such a way that they considered there was a possibility of receiving support there for their counter-revolutionary aims. Therefore a plan was considered for sending part of the group to Poland, in order to propagate from there the views and aims of the group.

"This plan must be regarded as particularly dangerous, since if it had been put into effect it could have caused serious disturbance of the friendly relations between the German Democratic Republic and People's Poland . . . In order to put this 'Polish Plan' into effect Harich had made enquiries as to how one could get to Poland without the knowledge of the authorities of the German Democratic Republic."

(The indictment stated that Harich then began to act ever more rashly. Steinberger, the indictment said, recognised that the group was endangered thereby, and urged that conspirative methods should be introduced.)

"Steinberger also expressed opposition to the inclusion of obviously counter-revolutionary demands in the programme, and considered it might be better to frame a minimum programme and a maximum programme."

(The indictment then stated that Harich had flown to Hamburg, where he met "influential representatives of the West German press", including the publisher of "Die andere Zeitung", an oppositional Social Democratic weekly.)

"As the result of this journey Harich received the promise that he and his group would be supported by publications, particularly by 'Die andere Zeitung."

The indictment concluded with the words:

"The aims inimical to the state, and the methods and means determined for their realisation amount without doubt to an act of treachery to the state."

In the course of the three-day trial, according to the reports published in "Neues Deutschland", the accused confessed that they were guilty of treachery to the state. "Harich stated that he had occupied himself very much with literature inimical to the (Socialist Unity) Party, from Trotzky to Ruth Fischer, and he stated that he had found that these authors 'were not so wrong'. Harich and his group eagerly accepted all the revisionist errors which emanated from Poland and Hungary in the course of the summer 1956, and Harich had many conversations with Polish and Hungarian acquaintances. In October 1956 he met two Polish intellectuals at a Heinrich Heine meeting in Weimar, at which they strengthened his views by reporting on, as they called it, 'the revolutionary fight against Stalinism' in Poland.

"Harich stated in court that his aggressive feelings against the Party and the government of the German Democratic Republic grew ever stronger. 'The Party leadership and the government should be overthrown' he stated. Harich and his group in the 'Aufbau' publishing house were particularly keen on removing Ulbricht, Grotewohl, Matern and Schirdewan from the leadership.

"Harich had made the plan to issue a series of appeals, in which the members of the Socialist Unity Party should be called upon to turn their backs on the Party leadership; the Soviet Government and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union should be appealed to to adopt a position of neutrality or to support a reorganisation of the government of the German Democratic Republic. Other appeals were planned calling for the formation of 'Workers' and Soldiers' Councils', and the population should support these councils against the organs of the State Security and the People's Army."

(The "Neues Deutschland" report stated that as far as was shown at the trial, the other members of Harich's group did not know of his contacts with the East Bureau of the Social Democratic Party. According to this newspaper report the three accused held only two meetings of their "conspirative group" before they were arrested on November 29th.)

The "Neues Deutschland" report concluded with the following paragraphs:

"The accused confessed that their plans would have led to the removal of the social order and the state order in the German Democratic Republic, and admitted their guilt. Harich declared that nobody could have stopped him if he had not been arrested. Steinberger emphasised the correctitude of the investigation methods, and stated in the course of the hearing that he stood by every word of the protocols which had been brought to his knowledge and to the knowledge of the other accused.

"All those who had the opportunity to attend the trial were impressed by the businesslike and correct course of the trial. A group of conspirators who were blind enough to believe that they could overthrow our people's democratic order were dealt with as they had deserved by the judiciary of the workers' and peasants' state. This will be the lot of all enemies who dare to lift their hand against the people's power."

BIGGEST TRADE FAIR

83 British Firms At Leipzig

East-West trade contracts amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars were concluded at the Leipzig Spring Fair, which was closing as this number of GERMAN REPORT went to press.

Eighty-three British firms, the largest number to exhibit at any post-war fair in Leipzig, displayed their goods to businessmen from east and west. The firms included Rolls Royce, Standard Motors, Pye Radio and the Rootes Group.

Opening the fair on March 2nd, East Germany's Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau drew attention to the fact that trade between Britain and the German Democratic Republic was still on an unsatisfactory basis, since the British authorities declined to conclude any trade or clearing agreement. "It is difficult to understand this reluctance, particularly when we see that the British balance of trade is calculated to become more than 100 million pounds worse in 1957" Minister Rau stated.

At a press conference on March 5th Minister Rau repeated his plea for a regularisation of trade relations with Britain. "We understand that the British authorities now refuse British businessmen licences to import goods from the German Democratic Republic if they can be obtained elsewhere" he said. "We want to trade with Britain, and British businessmen and both Conservative and Labour M.P.s attending the fair favour such trade: but the British government is acting in a contrary sense."

In his opening speech Minister Rau disclosed that the foreign trade of the German Democratic Republic had risen by twelve percent during 1956. Proper trade agreements had been concluded with such countries as Finland, Austria, Greece, France, Belgium, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Holland.

Religion in East Germany I

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

Dean Heinrich Grueber represents the Protestant church in its relations with the government of the German Democratic Republic. We asked him the following three questions:

1. Are all denominations on the same footing in the Republic and what are the relations of the church to the state?
2. Are there theological faculties in the universities?
3. Are there or have there been difficulties between church and state?

Here is Dean Grueber's answer:

New difficulties between church and state are continually cropping up because both the church and the state are searching for new forms. All revolutionary epochs are accompanied not only by a certain unrest and sense of insecurity, but also very often by misunderstandings. New ideas, struggling to assert themselves, are often accompanied by temporary but unpleasant circumstances which attract more attention than the creative forces which are in the process of development. I often illustrate this by the following: the important thing about a birth is the new person brought into the world, who should receive all our attention, regardless of the accompanying pains and other unpleasant things connected with the birth.

There is a close link between church and state in Germany, as in most European countries. The one supports the other. Every citizen entered at birth not only the community of the nation, but also of the church, and these communities were almost identical; until with the French Revolution this link became somewhat looser. In Germany the process began later, in fact after 1918. New conceptions of the essence of the church developed mainly for the protestant church during the so-called "battle of the churches" — the confessional churches — which took up the fight against the exclusive power of the state and its excesses during the Hitlerite era.

It need not be emphasised here that the search for new Socialist state conceptions and economic forms is not yet at an end. Things unfinished often lead to an excess of zeal and become a source of misunderstandings which can only be resolved in the course of open discussions between state and church organs.

One of the tasks of the church representative to the government of the German Democratic Republic is the introduction and continuation of such top level talks. Notable successes have been achieved during the last year in the initiation of such discussions with intermediate and lower government offices.

On principle the new state form wishes to preserve neutrality in its dealings with all groups, so long as they represent no threat to peace and order. Nevertheless, the state has continued to grant certain traditional privileges to the two big churches — evangelical and Catholic. After all, between 80 and 90 per cent of the population belong to the Christian churches.

The state allocates sizable funds to the churches, although not as much as formerly. The evangelical church, which covers between 75 and 80 per cent of the population, receives 11 million marks a year. In addition, the state pays considerable sums for the upkeep of historically valuable church buildings.

The church tax, an old institution dating back to state church times, is anchored in the church itself. The churches can also give religious instruction through their representatives. If necessary, class-room and time can be arranged for religious instruction in the schools themselves. Church collections can be made in institutions and in the streets.

Pastors are trained mainly in the theological faculties of the state uni-

Some of the religious periodicals published in the German Democratic Republic. The papers shown are "Die Kirche" (The Church), Protestant weekly in Berlin; "Tag des Herrn" (The Lord's Day), and "St. Hedwigsblatt", Catholic weeklies; "Theologische Literaturzeitung" (Theological Literature), Protestant monthly; "Potsdamer Kirche" (Potsdam Church), Protestant weekly in Potsdam; "Die Christenlehre" (Christian Teaching), monthly for Protestant evangelists; and "Die Zeichen der Zeit" (Signs of the Times), Protestant monthly.

versities. The state carries the costs of upkeep of these faculties, and theological students have exactly the same rights to stipends as other students. Difficulties arise when state and Party functionaries are too fanatically free-thinking, and where churchmen do not understand that the times of one-sided privileges for the churches are past.

There are a number of practising Christians in the government who try to defend the interests of the church in the cabinet and in Parliament.

An understanding of the great tasks confronting us, and which we can only solve together, is the best basis for cooperation between church and state.

(Reprinted from "Nouvelles d'Allemagne", East Berlin February 1957)

Street Collections for the Evangelical Church in East Berlin

E. GERMANY PROTESTS TO UN

American Intervention in Internal Affairs

The German Democratic Republic has protested to the United Nations against United States intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic, and asked the United Nations to take steps to end this intervention.

A long memorandum on the subject, giving many details of this US intervention, was submitted to UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjoeld on December 21st 1956. The contents of the memorandum were published in Berlin at the end of February.

Two of the documents offered as evidence by the German Democratic Republic are reproduced on the opposite page. Here are some of the main points made in the memorandum:

"The authorities and institutions of the USA are continually intervening in the internal affairs of the German Democratic Republic, and carrying on subversive activity in breach of the normal rules of international law. Here are some examples:

"American official quarters in the German Federal Republic and in West Berlin are continually engaged in attempting to drive a wedge between the population and the government of the German Democratic Republic, by means of rumour-spreading, slanders, appeals to sabotage, and by the preparation of armed unrest . . .

"In order to undermine internal law and order in the German Democratic Republic the American government has established in Germany the 'Radio in the American Sector' (RIAS).

(The memorandum quoted examples of inflammatory broadcasts made by RIAS at the time of the unrest in East Germany in June 1953.)

"In the period since June 1953 RIAS has continued to appeal to the population of the German Democratic Republic to resist the government.

"Apart from transmitting hate-propaganda, RIAS has been directly concerned with the recruiting of agents, who should spread rumours and slanders and carry out espionage.

(Details of this activity are shown by the "Instructions for Interviewers", signed by former RIAS director G. A. Ewing, reproduced on this page. Cooperation between RIAS and the American Counter Intelligence Corps is shown by the other memorandum reproduced below.)

"The Counter Intelligence Corps maintains 60 offices in West Germany and 19 in West Berlin . . . A questionnaire used by the West Berlin CIC offices situated at 27 Spindelmuehler Weg and 16 Edithstrasse, under the

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

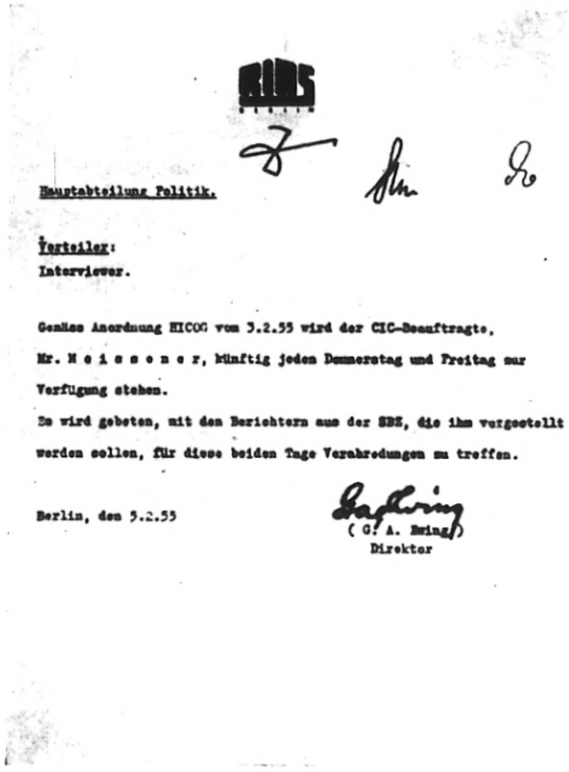
supervision of Captain Walter asks:

"Is the contact prepared to receive or conceal the following material:

a) Radio apparatus?
b) Weapons?
c) Explosives?

b) Is he ready to conceal a resistance fighter for a certain length of time?"

(The East German Protest note proceeded to give full details, backed by documentary evidence, on espionage and sabotage activities directly undertaken by American agencies, or "independent" agencies subsidised with American funds.)



RIAS

Hauptabteilung Politik.

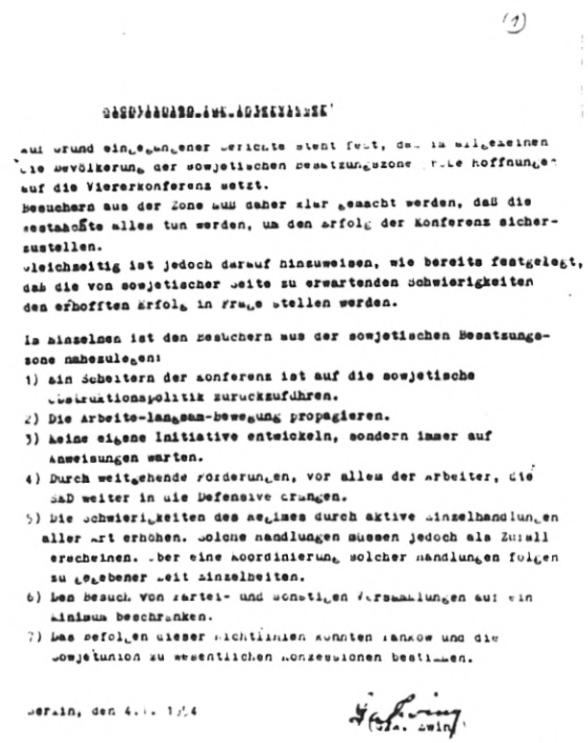
Verteiler:
Interviewer.

Gemäss Anordnung HICOG vom 3.2.55 wird der CIC-Beauftragte, Mr. M e i s s e n e r, künftig jeden Donnerstag und Freitag zur Verfügung stehen.

Es wird gebeten, mit den Berichtern aus der SBZ, die ihm vorgestellt werden sollen, für diese beiden Tage Verabredungen zu treffen.

Berlin, den 5.2.55

(G. A. Ewing)
Direktor



(1)

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Auf Grund eingegangener Berichte steht fest, daß in der Bevölkerung der sowjetischen Besatzungszone große Hoffnungen auf die Viererkonferenz setzt.
Besuchern aus der Zone muß daher klar gemacht werden, daß die westlichen Mächte alles tun werden, um den Erfolg der Konferenz sicherzustellen.
Gleichzeitig ist jedoch darauf hinzuweisen, wie bereits festgelegt, daß die von sowjetischer Seite zu erwartenden Schwierigkeiten den erhofften Erfolg in Frage stellen werden.

Im Einzelnen ist den Besuchern aus der sowjetischen Besatzungszone nahezulegen:
1) Ein Scheitern der Konferenz ist auf die sowjetische Obstruktionspolitik zurückzuführen.
2) Die Arbeite-langsam-bewegung propagieren.
3) Keine eigene Initiative entwickeln, sondern immer auf Anweisungen warten.
4) Durch weitgehende Forderungen, vor allem der Arbeiter, die SED weiter in die Defensive drängen.
5) Die Schwierigkeiten des Regimes durch aktive Einzelhandlungen aller Art erhöhen. Solche Handlungen müssen jedoch als Zufall erscheinen. Über eine Koordinierung solcher Handlungen folgen zu gegebener Zeit Einzelheiten.
6) Den Besuch von Partei- und sonstigen Versammlungen auf ein Minimum beschränken.
7) Das Befolgen dieser Richtlinien könnten Pankow und die Sowjetunion zu wesentlichen Konzessionen bestimmen.

Berlin, den 4.[illegible] 1954

[illegible] Ewing

Rias 1

(Translation)

RIAS
Berlin

Political Department

Distribution: Interviewers

In accordance with instructions from HICOG (US High Commission for Germany), Mr Meissener, the delegate of CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) will in future be available every Thursday and Friday.

It is requested that appointments should be made for these two days with reporters from the SBZ (Soviet Occupation Zone = German Democratic Republic) who are to be introduced to him.

Berlin, 5. 2. 55

G. A. Ewing
Director

Instructions for Interviewers

On the basis of reports received it is clear that in general the population of the Soviet Occupation Zone have great hopes for the Big Four Conference.

It must therefore be made clear to visitors from the Zone that the western powers will do everything possible to ensure the success of the conference.

At the same time, as earlier arranged, it should be pointed out that the difficulties to be expected from the Soviet side can jeopardise the hoped-for success.

The following details should be communicated to visitors from the Soviet Occupation Zone:

1) A breakdown of the conference is to be attributed to the Soviet policy of obstruction.
2) The "work slow" movement is to be propagated.
3) No individual initiative should be developed; always wait for instructions.
4) Force the SED (Socialist Unity Party) into the defensive by the use of for-reaching demands – particulary by workers.
5) Increase the difficulties of the regime by active individual efforts of every sort. Such acts must appear, however, to be coincidences. At the right time instructions will be given on the coordination of such acts.
6) Attendance at Party meetings and other meetings should be reduced to a minimum.
7) If these instructions are followed Pankow (the Government of the German Democratic Republic) and the Soviet Union could be forced to considerable concessions.

Berlin, 4. 1. 54

G. A. Ewing

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

For two weeks every spring the centre of gravity of the German Democratic Republic shifts from East Berlin, the capital, down to the city of Leipzig, about one hundred miles to the south. If you try to contact any government official or journalist during this period the chances are that you will get the answer: "He's in Leipzig".

The reason for the migration is of course the Leipzig Trade Fair, which is not only East Germany's biggest commercial event of the year, but one of the largest and most important of all world trade fairs.

I myself have been down to Leipzig for nearly every trade fair since 1947, and I should like to record a few of the changes I have seen during this period.

Act of Faith

In 1947, just two years after the end of the war, it was really an act of faith to hold a trade fair at Leipzig at all. At that time very few of the wounds of war had been healed, and total industrial production in East Germany had only crawled back from about nil in May 1945 to a figure somewhere less than half of the pre-war total.

The East German firms exhibiting at the fair put on a brave show, it is true, but they frankly admitted that most of the goods they were showing were only models of the goods which they hoped they might be able to turn out at some indefinite future date, if they could get the machines to do the job, if they could get the necessary raw materials, and if they could find customers able to pay for them. As I recall it, about the only things shown at the fair which could actually be ordered with any hope of getting delivery were ash-trays and lampshades, neither of which really fulfilled a long-felt want.

Sorry Sight

And outside the fair pavilions too Leipzig was a sorry sight, with bomb-scars everywhere you looked, underfed people in the streets, and practically nothing to buy in the shops. I remember searching high and low for something to buy as a souvenir, and finding nothing more suitable than a second-hand opera-hat in an old-clothes store: on mature reflection even more useless than an ash-tray.

Today the position has changed so radically that it is difficult to believe that you are going to the same fair in the same city: about the only thing that remains unchanged is the hopeless fight for a table at any of the restaurants, since the influx of fair visitors always overtaxes eating facilities however much they may be expanded.

But the goods on show on the stands of the East German exhibitors are no longer just models or lonely prototypes: they are machines, textiles, books and so on which are really being turned out, and which are available for purchase. Sometimes, alas, they are still marked "reserved for export only", but every year more of these goods are becoming available on the home market too.

And in the meantime the businessmen of the world have rediscovered Leipzig, particularly as a centre for East-West trade, and the exhibition halls are crammed with Rolls Royce diesels from Britain, silks from China, cheese from Holland, and in fact something from almost everywhere.

And what does Leipzig look like outside the fair grounds? The scars of war are not all healed yet, and there are still plenty of empty spaces marking the bomb sites; but the Leipzig citizens you see in the streets are well nourished and moderately well-clad; and the shops are filled with a remarkable variety of goods. Indeed, several of the western correspondents I met at Leipzig were looking slightly worried because their wives were buying such a lot, they said.

Not so Hot

In the past, some of the goods turned out by the socialised industries of East Germany have not been so hot. There have been plenty of explanations for this, some of them valid and some of them not so good. Among the valid explanations have been the fact that various western embargo measures have prevented East German industry from getting the necessary high-quality raw materials, and another has been the fact that the partitioning of Germany has meant that factories in East Germany have had to set to and manufacture components of which they had no experience, since their traditional suppliers are now situated in the western part of the country. Practically all electrical accessories for car manufacture happen to have come from factories now in West Germany, and it is easily understandable that it takes quite a time to accumulate the necessary know-how to make high-quality sparking plugs, for instance.

Standards Up

One of the not quite so valid excuses for poor quality has been the fact that there has been such a hunger for consumer goods here that they could easily be sold, even if they were not up to world standards of quality.

But with the general rapid development of East German industry in the past few years many of these shortcomings have been overcome, and there is a steady drive to see to it that only really high-quality goods are turned out.

The development has been clear to anyone living here, but I am glad to have confirmation of it from a completely disinterested source. The "Consumers' Research Bulletin", published in Washington, New Jersey, regularly analyses the quality of various products on the American market, and the November 1956 bulletin, which has just come my way, has an interesting survey of the quality of 14 different brands of portable typewriter. Of the typewriters under review, three brands come from East Germany: the Erika 10, costing $ 117.50, Optima Elite 3 ($ 94.50) and Groma Kolibri ($ 109.50). All of these East German models receive the "recommended" label: four types of US-made machines, two Dutch-made machines and one Swiss-made machine fall below this grading. I am glad to be able to register this completely unsolicited testimonial.

Hole in Head

I suppose I ought to have my head examined for asking readers to send me the verses of the English folk song Widdicombe Fair. Readers in Paris, London, Geneva, and Moscow, amongst other places, have all gone to the trouble of sending me the missing verses. In the name of my daughter Miriam I thank you all. Now I am waiting for the second wave of contributions from places like Nepal and Bolivia.

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